

65-1790

8 - APR 1965

Honorable William L. Dawson  
Chairman, Committee on  
Government Operations  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

We wish to submit the views of this Agency on H. R. 4845, 89th Congress, a bill "To provide for the economic and efficient purchase, lease, maintenance, operation, and utilization of automatic data processing equipment by Federal departments and agencies."

We endorse H. R. 4845's objective to achieve economic and effective use of automatic data processing equipment. Guidance, support, and standardization are extremely important goals in the automatic data processing field. Further, we appreciate the problem of drafting such legislation to assure that the authorities and responsibilities are sufficient to the task, without impairing the effectiveness of Federal agencies.

As is the case with many other agencies, the Central Intelligence Agency regards automatic data processing equipment as an invaluable and indispensable aid in the performance of its responsibilities. Such equipment has enhanced our capability to coordinate, correlate, and evaluate the vital and complicated security data and intelligence information which we are receiving in ever-increasing quantities.

**CIA uses both specialized and general commercial equipment in its automatic data processing program. In both cases, however, utilization is inextricably involved in the security responsibilities of the Director of Central Intelligence.**

**For your information, the National Security Act of 1947, as amended, provides, in part, as follows:**

**"... That the Director of Central Intelligence shall be responsible for protecting intelligence sources and methods from unauthorized disclosure; ..." (50 U.S.C. 401).**

**Although we wholeheartedly support the basic objective of the bill, compliance by the Director of Central Intelligence with the full scope of the authorities and responsibilities of the Administrator, GSA, raises a serious question of conflict with the Director's statutory responsibility to protect intelligence sources and methods and data relating to the organization of this Agency.**

**We are informed that there is no intent to subordinate the security responsibilities of the Director of Central Intelligence to the provisions of the bill. This was also indicated in the hearings and floor discussion on H.R. 5171, a similar bill introduced in the 86th Congress, where we find numerous references to intelligence as an example of the type of activities the Administrator would or should exempt from the provisions of the proposed law.**

**While H.R. 4845 provides the Administrator with similar authority to grant exceptions from the full scope of the bill, we feel that the potential for statutory conflict on this matter warrants clarification in the bill itself. Therefore, we recommend that there be added to the sentence which ends on line 3, page 5, the following proviso:**

"Provided, That where a head of a Federal agency determines that compliance will require the disclosure of national security information for which he has responsibility, pursuant to law, to protect from unauthorized disclosure, the provisions of this section shall not apply."

We will be happy to provide any additional information that your Committee may request.

The Bureau of the Budget has advised, that from the standpoint of the Administration's program, there is no objection to the submission of this report.

Faithfully yours,

((Signed))

Marshall S. Carter  
Lieutenant General, USA  
Deputy Director

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